

# GENERAL HATES EAR-BASHERS AT COCKTAIL PARTIES

Ear-bashers at cocktail parties are the pet aversion of a former British War Office "cloak and dagger" leader who is now in Melbourne.

\* Page 2—THE SUN, Monday, Sept. 7, 1953

## FORMER CLOAK AND DAGGER CHIEF HERE

A FORMER British War Office "cloak and dagger" leader arrived in Melbourne yesterday in the liner Strathmore.

He is Major-General A. C. Shortt, C.B., O.B.E., who has been posted to Australia as chief of the United Kingdom Service Liaison Staff.

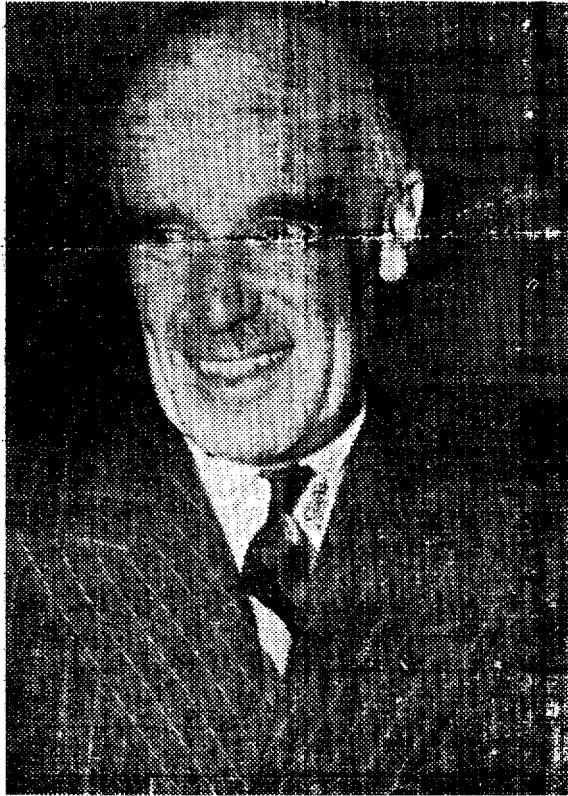
His last position was Director of Military Intelligence at the British War Office.

"But don't think this job has anything to do with that. I am just here as a liaison between the Chiefs-of-Staff of Britain and Australia," Major-General Shortt said yesterday.

He added that his duties would not include any close interest in the Woomera rocket range project.

A veteran of two World Wars, Major-General Shortt helped direct the fateful Dunkirk retreat and was one of the last to leave the beach.

He holds an "A" pilot's licence and is an enthusiastic stamp collector.



His last job was Director of Military Intelligence at the War Office.

Interrupting the unpacking of his suit-cases at his Army residence at Toorak today, Major-General Shortt said spies are not what they were.

"If you think I've brought with me a trunk full of dossiers on The World's Most Dangerous Men, then you're mistaken.

"I've left The World's Most Precious Secrets back in London for my successor to peruse. I'm not very interested in them now. I've got a new job.

### TRAITORS

"International agents? There are still plenty of them about, particularly on the Continent, but the man who demands large sums of money for information is usually the worst spy, because to earn his money he'll furnish you with 'secrets' — whether they're right or wrong.

"The most deadly spy is a development of recent years.

"He is the traitor — the bloke you've known for years who suddenly accepts the ideologies of a foreign country.

"Because he believes he's acting according to his conscience, he'll work extra hard at his rotten game.

### RED PROBES

"We know that Russian intelligence is very highly organised. They are constantly probing for information on our latest Army weapons in Europe.

"It's hard to find out what's going on in Russia because of their tight security network. But we get results just the same.

"Yes, you've got to learn to shut your mouth in this job. Cocktail parties are the biggest menace. There's always some ear-basher eager to make you talk. He looks harmless enough, but sometimes he's just a spy of some sort.

### "BAD START"

Major-General Shortt said he was in no position to comment on security arrangements at Woomera.

But Britain had got off to a "very bad start" with its atom security after the war, and the authorities couldn't be blamed for going to the limit in trying to keep secret what went on there now.

Our allies had to be convinced that we could be trusted.



• THE NEW CHIEF OF THE UNITED KINGDOM LIAISON STAFF IN AUSTRALIA (Maj.-General A. C. Shortt) pictured aboard the liner Strathmore when it berthed in Melbourne last night.

## New U.K. Liaison Chief Arrives

The new chief of the United Kingdom Service Liaison Staff in Australia (Major-General A. C. Shortt), who arrived in the liner Strathmore last night, was about to retire when offered the appointment.

Since 1949 he was Director of Military Intelligence at the British War Office. On August 26, on the voyage from England, he completed 37 years of army service.

Major - General Shortt said last night he rejected all plans to retire when offered his present post.

He added, "It suits me perfectly, because I have wanted to come to Australia for a long time, and I am thrilled with what I have already seen of it."

During an anticipated two years' stay here, Major - General Shortt, with headquarters in Melbourne, will act as chief liaison officer between the Chiefs of Staff of Britain and Australia.

He succeeds Air Vice-Marshal G. Harcourt-Smith, who returned to England about two months ago.

Modest and unassuming, he referred to the Dunkirk retreat as "a very interesting show."

Major-General Shortt's interests are varied. An ardent cricket fan, he holds an A class flying licence, collects stamps, especially Dutch stamps of the last century, and is an accomplished pianist.

### At Dunkirk

In his distinguished military career the 54-year-old general gained the C.B. and O.B.E.

In the retreat through Dunkirk in World War II he was one of the first men to land on the beach and one of the last to leave.